

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies a Request for Participation in the Patent Prosecution Highway (PPH) program. Entry and favorable consideration of the Preliminary Amendment are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-13 were previously pending in the present application. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted to place the claims of the present application in direct correspondence to Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2006-519671. Accordingly, claims 1-13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer to the subject matter therein; and claims 14-18 have been added.

Claims 14-18 correspond directly to the claims 1-5 of Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2006-519671. Japanese National Stage Application No. JP 2006-519671 is the Japanese counterpart of the present application, and the claims of this Japanese application have been allowed in Japan. No new matter has been introduced by new claims 14-18.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone to resolve any issues in the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Mark D. Pratt/

By: 2008.08.21 16:02:16 -04'00'

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August 21, 2008